

Some Necessary

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CONSIDERATIONS

Relating to all future

ELECTIONS

OF

Members to Serve in PARLIAMENT,

Humbly offer'd to all

ELECTORS,

Whether they be

True Sons of the Church of *England*, as by
Law Establish'd,

OR

Modest Protestant DISSENTERS.

To which is added

A List, and Account, of One hundred and sixty seven
Worthy Good Patriots lately traduc'd in a scandal-
ous Libel commonly call'd **The Black List.**

AS ALSO

A LIST of Two hundred and twenty three Honest Gen-
tlemen, who signaliz'd themselves in the Defence of the Rights of the
Commons of *England* in the Point of *Impeachments.*

By a True English-man.

L O N D O N: Printed in the Year MDCCII.

Parliamentary Vol. 1.

CONSIDERATIONS

Relating to the

RELATIONS

OF

AMONGST THE

MEMBERS

OF THE

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A Bill and Account of One Hundred and Forty
Worthy Good Persons lately residing in a certain
City and Liberty commonly called the Black

A LIST of the Names of the Members of the
Church, who have been admitted into the same since the
Commencement of the Year 1700

LONDON: Printed by J. Knapton, at the Sign of the

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*Necessary Considerations touching the Election of
Members to serve in Parliament, offer'd to
all true Sons of the Church of England, and
all modest Protestant Dissenters who intend
to live quietly under the present Government.*

IT has been the hard Fortune of the People of *England*, to be misrepresented, for some Years last past, both abroad and at home, and thereby to be render'd contemptible and odious to their Neighbours; as a People inconsistent with themselves, wavering in their Resolutions, fickle in their Alliances, unfriendly to their Neighbours; and to become jealous of one another, angry with their best Patriots, and fond of those who labour'd to subvert their Constitution, Church and Liberties, &c.

It may seem strange to those who have not sufficiently consider'd, or are not well acquainted with Matters of this Nature, That it should be possible for a People to become contemptible to their Neighbours, while they gave such manifest Proofs of their Strength, Courage and Wealth; or to be odious to those who subsisted chiefly by their Succours and Assistance.

Yet such has been the Artifice of some designing People, that our Allies have been made to believe, That tho' we had all those Qualities actually existent in us, yet we were a rude, indigested Mass, a Rabble of People that had no Soul

or Form, but what the *King*, and a few of his *Ministers* gave us; That like Flints, we had no Fire but what was struck from us; and wou'd exert none of our unactive, lazy Powers, but by their Inspiration.

This gave our Allies a very high Idea of the King, and those about him that could move such a lumpish, inanimate Body to such great and noble Actions; but it fill'd 'em, at the same time, with a contempt of that People who wanted Life and Soul, to exert that Force that lay dormant in 'em, till it was rous'd and directed by others. They took us to be like Guns, that might do a great deal of good or harm as we were us'd; but that all the thanks was owing to the *In-gineers* and *Gunners* that mounted, charg'd and fir'd us; and that after the Service was over, it was no matter whether we split or rusted. This was manifest from the little Regard that was shewn the *English* Nation during the whole Course of the late War, and after it; and was owing to the Artifices of some People who magnified their own Services and Affection to our Allies, and represented a House of Commons, (the Representatives of the Collective Body of the People) as a weak Assembly, which they could either lead or drive as they pleased. By these Means they gain'd so far upon some of our Neighbours, as to be able to prompt 'em to interpose in Matters of the highest Importance to us, and to prevail sometimes against the manifest Interest of this Kingdom.

To support this Credit abroad, they found it necessary to make some Figure of it at home, and to keep a Party, which tho' considerable for nothing but their capacity of Conscience, and Confidence, were thought proper Instruments, by false Clamour, and forg'd Calumnies, to create Divisions, and foment Faction among the People; to maintain which Party, and to keep their Inventions warm, Millions, perhaps, of the Publick Money, have been unaccountably lavish'd, and one
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Mint has labour'd to encourage the other. By these Arts they so far poyson'd a great part of the common People with Jealousies, and groundless Apprehensions, as to render many of the Gentlemen in all Parts of *England*, who are most considerable for their Abilities, Integrity and Courage, as well as Quality and Estate, suspected and fear'd by 'em. No sooner did any of these signalize himself in the House of Commons but his Honour was attack'd, and he was branded with Popery and *France*, how unjustly soever; scandalous Stories, Libels and malicious lying Accusations were spread of him throughout *England*, without either Proof or Author, and his Reputation was wounded by unknown Hands, that made their Markets at the expence of his Fame.

It may be worth while to observe whither these Practices tended. First, By representing us a weak, irresolute People in our selves, that knew not how to manage our own Strength and Wealth, they gave our Neighbours and Allies courage to presume upon us, and to interpose in our Affairs, and to rest themselves secure, That having gained those few (whom they thought our Leaders) on their side, they had nothing to do but to gain over the King to their Party, and the Business was done; the Asses wou'd be tame, and might be driven to the Pound, or whither else they pleased; and by possessing 'em, That we were such malevolent ill Neighbours, as were never to be brought to any hearty or sincere Intentions towards their Allies, they provok'd 'em to hate us; and having wrought 'em to a belief, That to them only they were oblig'd for all the great Services they receiv'd from *England*, prepar'd 'em to back all their Measures, and second their Designs, whenever they should signifie to 'em their Schemes were ripe, and that the proper Season was come; which had not Providence prevented, we might have seen Ten times more Foreign Soldiers in *England* than those we struggle so hard to send away, and

as many fewer of our own at Home than we thought safe to keep up.

But as this Design was *bipartite*, it was as necessary to be well with one Partie at least at Home as Abroad. The Gentlemen all over *England* were found unfit for their purposes; their Principles were sound, and their Stakes too great, to give up either our Church or Constitution, and therefore a Party who had always labour'd the subversion of both, were advanc'd and carress'd, as the only true stanch Protestants. But these being a Party alone too weak to effect what they aim'd at; they took in a sort of mungrel Church-goers, whose Conformity was not the result of Principle, but of a luke-warm Compliance with the Humour of the Times; who could as readily have embraced any other Church and Doctrines, in which they cou'd find their own private Accompt. These they dignified with the specious Title of Men of Moderation and Temper; tho' they and the Party they were now united with, were known, most of 'em, to be the Men who in a Reign preceeding, had like by their great Moderation and Temper, to have ruin'd our Religion, Laws and Liberties; yet now they were cry'd up as the only proper Persons to protect and assert 'em. Their gross railing was magnified as Zeal, and their slavish obsequiousness was made an Argumeent of their Affection to the Government, tho' they had given the same Proofs of both before to him, they then rail'd at.

By these a Comprehension was labour'd, which might admit into the Dignities of the Church and State, a medly of Men, who ever since the first spawning of their Sect, have been profest Enemies of both, some of which, however they may call themselves *Protestants*, have not yet been able to prove themselves *Christians*. To bring about this Project, on which the main home Strength of their Scheme depended, the Principal Gentlemen all over *England*, whose Principles and Penetration

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tration they fear'd, were brought into disgrace with the King, and the Mobb, whom they perswaded, whoever had the Courage to oppose their Partie, was a Papist, a Jacobite, or a Favourer of *France*, and disaffected to the Government as they call'd themselves. Instead of those, they brought into the Commissions of the Lieutenancy and Peace, almost all *England* over, a Set of Fellows of no Fortune, Honour or Reputation, or Gentlemen of known Aversion to the *Monarchy* and *Church of England*, that by these Promotions the Courage of the Dissenters might be rouz'd, and the Ambition of the Mobb elevated to aspire to the like Preferments, by insulting their best Patriots, and trampling upon Authority. How far they succeeded in these Attempts may be seen in the almost universal Corruption and depravation of the meaner People throughout *England*, and the Affronts which were so openly put upon the last Parliament by that Partie; and tho' we are highly oblig'd to, and ever ought to be sensible of the gallant Stand then made by many worthy Gentlemen of both Houses in our Defence, yet it is to Providence that we owe the entire defeat of these curs'd Designs, if yet we may reckon that Work compleat.

The Countenance of the Court, the hopes of Preferment, and the clamour and Impudence of the Mercenary Promoters of these dangerous Designs, prevail'd upon the Simplicity of the well meaning People, whom it is necessary, at this time, to undeceive, especially those who are truly of the Church of *England*. But seeing some, whom from their outward Profession, they thought Churchmen, go into a wrong Interest, have been misled to bear 'em Company, without apprehending their true intent and meaning. To arm all such, and all Protestant Dissenters, who have no other aim than the peaceable enjoyment of their own Consciences and Worship, however erroneous, it may suffice to give such general Cautions as will distinguish with what Principle, and upon what views Men act, without descending to

to personal Reflections, how well soever deserved by some People.

God has been graciously pleased to give us a Queen as truly *English* by Inclination as by Birth, who both by Principle and Practice, has given us undoubted Demonstration of her sincere Affection and Zeal for our Church and Constitution. If therefore we do not make use of this Blessing to second her pious Intentions, and establish both for ever, we shall be guilty of a great neglect of Providence, and perhaps put our selves out of the protection of it for ever hereafter.

This is not said to inflame any body against those who dissent from us in Opinion, but to warn against the Practices of those who (without any regard to Religion) have by-ends to pursue, and encourage one Party only to the destruction of both.

Reason and Experience have both taught us, That our Church and Constitution must of necessity stand or fall together; and that all those, of whatsoever Sect or Denomination, who have aim'd at the subversion of one, have labour'd the Destruction of the other likewise. It will therefore highly behove all Protestants, lovers of the *English* Constitution, whether they be Conformists to the establish'd Church or not, to contribute their utmost Endeavours towards the support of it; since with that the *English* Constitution and Liberty must necessarily sink. The Reign of Queen *Mary*, the Usurpation of the *Rump*, and the Tyranny of *Oliver*, have to our Sorrow, manifestly evinc'd this long since; therefore they who aim only at Liberty of Conscience, of which they are now secure, while they continue quiet, can have no Interest to shake that Fabrick under which alone they can be sheltered.

I shall not enquire upon what Motives (but it is expected that upon the Conclusion of this Sessions) this Queen shou'd dissolve this Parliament. Upon Supposition that it will be so,
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it may not be improper to shew, How much it imports the People to be wise and circumspect in their next Choice: For if they shall hereafter be so unsteady, so loose, and so corrupt as they have been in many of their late Elections, they will lose the fairest Opportunity that they ever had to resettle both Church and State, and give such head to Faction and Corruption, as may in time give 'em Power to dismount their Constitution.

The People ought to consider, that when they have made choice of their Representatives, they have parted with their Power, and lodg'd it in them for so long a time as they continue to be such; and therefore they ought to be very cautious and wary in the disposition of such a Trust, and to be very sure of the Fidelity of the Persons in whom they place it. To arrive at such a certainty as seems necessary in so great a Case, appears from the Experience of many Ages to be very difficult, but more especially in this, when the pretended Principles, and real Practices of some Men (who were desirous to have been thought the only true Friends to the Government) have been found so little of a piece; To establish such a Criterion as shall infallibly distinguish the sound from the unsound (if the use of Terms may be allowed, by which a certain Party have affected to discriminate themselves) seems almost morally impossible; but it may not be very hard to assign some marks, which may certainly shew that the Persons who bear 'em are altogether unfit for that Trust and Dignity.

The profess'd *Dissenters* from the *Church* here establish'd by Law, have (one wou'd think) pass'd a sort of a Bill of Exclusion upon themselves, and with their own Hands shut the Door of the House of Commons against themselves: But so supinely secure were the Church of *England* Men, that they have lent their Hands to their Enemies to force open that Door for 'em which they had sufficiently barr'd against themselves. This

is what some Men who wou'd be thought Friends to the Church, and wise for it, labour'd hard for, under the Name of Comprehension, a thing that wou'd let in every Man of what Sect soever that is not called a Papist, except the true Church of *England* Man, whom only they wou'd exclude. There is little need of warning to those who are truly solicitous for the Church, and understand rightly wherein its true excellence and security consists; but as few are gifted with so much Penetration and Discernment, there are many who profess themselves her Sons, who have given her, thro' their Imprudence, many cruel and dangerous Wounds, not exempting some who have their daily Bread from her, whom we must in Charity believe to have acted what they did without any true foresight of the natural tendency of their Actions.

There are two sorts of People who ought especially to be inform'd of some errors both in Judgment and Practice, which (if pursu'd) may in time prove fatal to 'em; the Persons hereby meant, are, first, such as think *Ecclesiastick Policy* and *external Forms of Worship* things indifferent, that may without detriment be altered, or changed according to the pleasure of the supreme Magistrate, the Humour of the People, or the Circumstances of the Times; And next, the modest *Protestant Dissenters*, (who I hope, are the greatest part of 'em) who tho' dissatisfied with the Form of Worship established in the Church of *England*, yet by their Separation aim at nothing more than the Liberty of serving God in their own way.

It is not the business of this Paper to convince either of these Parties of their Errors; let one think themselves right in their Indifference, and t'other in their Separation; let us wave the religious part of the Argument, and consider only, how in Prudence both these sorts of Men ought to act, in regard to the Civil Constitution of *England*; for otherwise they ought not to have the benefit and protection of it.

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The first of these being indifferent as to the Form of Ecclesiastical Worship and Government, can't be suppos'd to concern themselves farther about it, than to secure the ease and quiet of the Laity, from the Imposition and Tyranny of Priests; what they offer farther, may justly be suspected of self-Design and Interest.

It were easie to prove, were the matter to be contested, that the Church of *England* is the most reasonably Constituted, both to Doctrine and Discipline, for the ease of the Laity, and the ends of Religion, of any Christian Church in the World. For as our Church claims no implicate Faith, as that of *Rome* does, so neither do her Priests usurp any Power or Jurisdiction over the Consciences of those whom they are to Instruct and take Care of, or pretend to determine of particular Election or Reprobation, as most of our Protestant Dissenting Ministers do; and thereby gain an Ascendant over the Consciences of ignorant timorous People, which is scarce consistent with Freedom of Mind, or Liberty of Conscience. But shou'd the Church of *England* be destroyed, some one of these must be set up; for I presume no Man wou'd have us without a national Church, of some kind or other: And let the Man of Indifference pitch upon which of the known Forms he pleases, and he will find himself infinitely more cramp'd by it, and more a Slave to the Priests, than ever he thought himself in the Church of *England*. But should the Church of *England* be dissolved, before the several Sects and Parties were agreed what to set up in the room of it, what then were we to expect, but that they should fall together by the Ears? And that the crafty Priest, that had the best knack of leading the Mob by the Ears, must necessarily in the conclusion, have the sole Direction of all spiritual Matters, and consequently we should fall into a worse Sort of Popery than that of the Church of *Rome*. This is no Chimera, no melancholy Dream or Fancy, but such a

Truth, as Observation and Experience of former Times, even in these Kingdoms, have furnish'd. This, I suppose may suffice to convince the indifferent Man, that it will be impossible for him to alter our Ecclesiastical Constitution for the better according to his Notions.

As for the Protestant Dissenter, whose Scruples, whether just or unjust, hinder him from Conforming to the Discipline and Worship of our Church, if he aims at nothing more than the Liberty of Worshipping in Purity, according to his own Sense, he has already, and need not doubt the Indulgence of the Queen, so long as he behaves himself with that inoffensive Modesty, and peaceable Disposition towards the national Church, which is due from a private Separatist, who would not incur the Censure and Penalties of a turbulent Schismatick.

But supposing the Dissenters were not so Modest in their Desires, (as it is hop'd most of 'em are) considering the Number and Variety of Sects, and the weakness of each of them apart, what benefit can any one Party propose to it self, from the ruin of the establish'd Church, were they able to effect it? Does their Dissention from the Church of *England* unite 'em either in Doctrine or Discipline? Does it bring 'em nearer to a Conformity with one another? No, but so much the contrary, could they prevail against the Church, they would be bitterer Enemies to one another, than ever they were to the Church. We have experienc'd this Truth in those unhappy Days when the Crown and Mitre were trampil'd upon, and God's House made a Den of Thieves, that fell out and were ready to cut each others Throats about the Possession and Division of it. Our Secretaries then saw how impracticable a Comprehension was, and that there was not one Sect among 'em, that did not think worse of all the rest, than of the Church they labour'd to pull down. But we have more recent Instances than that, which prove that they cannot bear even the dawning of Hopes with any tollerable good

good accord. *We have seen the two Sticks which a false Prophet of theirs had pronounced to be made One for ever ; soon sever'd, and made use of to break each others Heads. An Instance which plainly proves that Faction shall never be at Rest or Unity.

** Sermon on the Union of the Presby. and Indep. preach'd at Pinner's Hall.*

Such Dissenters as I have mention'd ought to be satisfied with the present Indulgence which the Church allows 'em, and resting themselves contented with the undisturbed Exercise of their Religion and Conscience, to give the established Church no Jealousie of their ill meaning or designs, and thereby provoke 'em, and indeed, make it necessary to lay 'em under greater Restraints and Incapacities than are at present intended 'em, or by destroying (were they able) that Church which now protects 'em, to fall under the Tyranny of a Sect which would have no such Tendernefs for them.

But if they entertain any hopes, that they even united shall be able to bid defiance to the establish'd Church, they are extremely mistaken in their own Strength. For tho' they have been able to make a considerable noise and bustle in the World, yet were they themselves but weak and inconsiderable. The main Strength of their Party lay in an Auxiliary Body of false Church-goers, who joined 'em, not out of any Love or Respect to them, but to their own private Interest. These were Men whose Eyes were always fixt on the Countenance of the Court, Men that were always resolv'd to be on the sunny side, be that whatever it was. These are a sort of Court-weather-cocks that veer about with every Wind, and watch the Disposition of Ministers and Favourites so carefully that they understand a Nod, or a shrug, and are ready to execute their Pleasure, be't what it will, before it is plainly signify'd: However, they may thank their Stars, that they wanted not a Sett of Ministers, who could make very broad Signs ; otherwise they might officiously have mistaken 'em, and follow'd the Words

of their Directions contrary to their meaning. 'Tis hardly to be thought that the Dissenters will depend on these Sun-flowers for their assistance at this time of Day : There's is now the shady side, and these are tender Plants, that can't endure it. They had no other reason for joining them before, than that they were favour'd by the late Ministry ; and they will leave 'em now, because they are not like to be so by the future. If therefore the Dissenters be Masters of any Temper or Prudence, they will not venture, by a vain struggle, at this time, to urge those who are infinitely the majority of the People, and have as well the Laws of the Land, as the Queen and her Court, on their side, to have 'em in distrust, and consequently under Guard ; it may, therefore, be worth their while, seriously to consider this, and not by a fruitless opposition to expose at once, the weakness and ill Intentions of their Party, but peaceably to enjoy that Liberty of Conscience and free exercise of their Religion, which no good Church of *England* Man will repine at while they appear to aim at no more.

As for the Church-goers, who pretend to be Sons of the Church, and yet have join'd our Enemies in all their Votes, 'tis plain that Preferment, not Principle, was the Star that guided 'em ; and 'tis to as much purpose to reason with the Weather-cock at St. *James's* as them ; the same Argument prevails with either, and a Court blast turns 'em about with equal facility. But there are some honest, true Sons of the Church, who in the Simplicity of their Hearts, taking these Men for what they appear'd to be, have been seduc'd to go along with 'em, and acted contrary to their own Intention and Meaning.

These are not a few, and therefore ought to be disabus'd, and have some marks given them, by which they may discern and distinguish the Woolf in Sheep's cloathing. The Inclinations of these Men are several ways to be discover'd ; by their avow'd Principles ; by their known Practices ; by the
Party

Party they join; by their Conversation on Publick Subjects; and by their fixedness, and wavering in their Resolutions.

'Tis hard to discover what Men's Principles really are; but not so hard to discern whether they act according to the Principles they pretend to own. We have lately known Men, who to the People have set a value upon themselves, and have been well receiv'd by 'em for it, who have labour'd to destroy those Rights, as Champions for which they recommended themselves. We need not go far for Instances, The Opposers of the Triennial Bill, the Promoters of a Standing Army in time of Peace, the obstructers of necessary Impeachments, and those who were lately willing to give up the Rights of the People, in that Point, are recent and undeniable Instances.

All these Men pretended to be Protectors of the Protestant Religion, and the best Friends to the Government. But had they half the merit of the *Roman* Geese, that sav'd the Capitol; had their noise and clamour been half so serviceable, or so innocent, they had deserved Consideration. 'Tis true, they did like the Geese alarm those who were able to preserve the State; but it was so far from being meritorious in 'em, that they were the very Enemies against whom it was most necessary and most dangerous to defend it.

By this Clamour for Liberty and Property, and their slavish obsequiousness to the Court, they wrigled themselves into Posts at *Whitehal*, and Credit with the Mob. Their pretence was a great Zeal for the Government and Protestant Religion. What was meant by these Words may be worth enquiring.

According to our Constitution, no other Protestant Religion ought to be promoted here in *England*, than that of the Church, by Law establish'd. And tho' a reasonable indulgence be justly due to all Consciences truly, however erroneously tender, yet no such encouragement ought to have been given to any Sectaries whatsoever, as to animate so far as to push at the
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National Church. But these Men of meritorious Zeal for the Protestant Religion, were not content to raise Dissenters of all kinds, even above the Church of *England* Men, unless they brought the latter into disgrace likewise. They aspers'd 'em unreasonably as Papists or Jacobites, and took care to put all the distrustful hardships upon 'em that they could invent; they displac'd 'em as fast as they cou'd, and put Men of opposite Principles or none into their Room, and perswaded the King that these were the only true fast Friends he had.

They were too sensible that by these Practices they did wrong to the Nation, and provok'd the Gentlemen who understood they had, and were almost all, the Men of the best Consideration in the Kingdom; and therefore they labour'd to secure to themselves the misguided Rabble, whom they amus'd with idle Fears, and rais'd to an insufferable insolence by the Countenance they gave 'em. They let fly the publick Money among their Emissaries, whom they employ'd to inspire the Mobb with a contempt of the best Gentlemen and Patriots; and set those to work, who had no Religion, to pull down that Church which only cou'd protect all.

The Form of our Ecclesiastical Policy resembles so nearly that of the Civil State, that the plea of *jus divinum* apart from either; no Man can have an abhorrence for one, who has not a hearty aversion to the other, how well soever he may dissemble it. We ought therefore to observe very carefully those Men, who in their late Conversations and Discourses, whether publick or private, have express'd a contempt or dislike of our Church Government and Discipline. For as the Authority of the Church in spirituals stands almost on the same Foot, and is disposed in the same manner, with that of the State in Civil Matters; Those Arguments (if its Enemies had any such) that were of strength to beat down one, wou'd batter the other very sorely were they levell'd against it. And we have no reason to
believe

believe that any Man, who considering and understanding the nearness of Relation between the Church and the State, and how much they stand on the same bottom, yet thinks fit to assault the first, but he would attack the latter likewise, if he did not think the Temporal Sword was longer and sharper edg'd than the Spiritual one.

But it is not from Men's Writings, or Talk only, that their Principles or Inclinations are to be Collected; their Actions are yet a much surer guide to their real Sentiments. To dissemble in Words is so easie, and grown so familiar with most People, that its scarce safe to trust to verbal Professions; especially when those that make 'em would recommend themselves to the Persons to whom they are made. The surest method to form a right Judgment, is to retrospect Mens past Conduct, and enquire how they have behav'd themselves on such occasions heretofore. If a Candidate for Parliament has ever sat in that House before, the Electors ought to be satisfied how he attended, and how he voted, especially in all critical and important Questions; wherein Men more particularly distinguish themselves, either for Affection, Wisdom or Courage, or all of 'em. If they have misbehaved themselves upon such Tryals, they ought not to be trusted any more, except a less obnoxious Person is not to be found.

If the Candidate has never been a Member before, the next certain Indication is, his Conduct in his own Country on all publick occasions. The Electors should examin what sort of Men he constantly favour'd? What Party he has always joyn'd? And for want of surer and closer Information, they may weigh him in their Standard without danger of committing any Error of Consequence. But if he has been unsteady in his Management, wavering in his Resolutions, and often changing sides, it is then the Duty of the Elector, to inform himself as well as he can, of the true Reasons and Motives of his In-

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constancy. And, if he finds it not to proceed from any Consideration of the Publick good, he ought to hold him inexcusable. He may then be sure that it is want of Judgment, Levity of Temper, or private Interest, or particular Picque, or Affection, none of which are honest warrantable Excuses, except those which carry an Incapacity for such Service along with 'em. For there is no Corporation how inconsiderable so ever, so low or vile in their own esteem, as to think Fool or Knave a Qualification to represent them.

There is yet another plain Characteristick by which not only the Leaders, but all the active Men of the Party, whom we ought at this time to beware of, are most essentially distinguish'd, that is, Lying and Defamation. By virtue of this single Quality has their Faction been propagated, and their Projects carried on: By these Arts have great numbers of our bravest Gentlemen, and the Nations best Friends been aspers'd, and render'd unpopular in most Parts of *England*, and many Thousands of simple credulous People banter'd almost out of their Faith and Principles, to the endangering of our Church and Constitution. When therefore any of the Electors hear, these Men lay about them with the tremendous Noise of Popery, and *French* Gold, those Bug-bear words, which fright the poor silly Vulgar out of their Senses: They may prepare themselves to hear some egregious Lie without Proof or Author, to defame, and blast the Credit of some honest Gentleman or other. But when in the modestest Fit, they find it convenient to stick to Generals, and deal out Slander by wholesale, even then it is not without some glance of particular Direction and Application, by which those that hear them may be led into their Meaning and Purposes, and themselves left at liberty to disown it, if repeated again to the Persons concerned, and resent'd by them. This sort of Profanation, there is scarce any kind of Thing or Place so sacred as to have escap'd; even the Pulpit it self has been

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been prostituted to these unhallowed Practices, and God's House employed in the Service of the Devil. We have been told from the Place from whence we were ^{* Sermon preach'd at Cambridge before the last Election, Oct. 1702.} went to hear sacred Truths, * *We must take care at this Juncture whom we Chuse, and beware of a popishly affected Party, for such a Party there is, who clogg'd the Prosecution of the late War, and hung upon the Wheels of the Government, who would tear from the King oppress'd Patriots, and true and faithful Ministers; and are now contending for Power, that they may, (as I believe) make a Present of us to a Foreign Tyranny.* These and the like Words have been heard from the Pulpit a little before an Election, out of the Mouth of one who had no foundation of Truth for it, or other Authority than a dishonest Forwardness to gratifie the Lusts, and to serve the Purposes of an obnoxious Patron. It were scarce worth the while to have taken notice of this Practice in particular, were it not to prevent the spreading of so scandalous an Abuse, and the Contagion of so foul an Example, and to warn People, that they may sometimes be surpriz'd, unless they be very careful, from a Quarter whence they would least of all suspect it.

It may be just matter of wonder, that Practices so detestable, and so notorious, should yet meet with such success, contrary to the true Interest and Meaning of the generality of the People. But there were two things which besides their Confidence and Lying were their main support; first, a furious pretended Zeal for the Protestant Religion in Indefinite terms; and next, a singular and meritorious Affection for the Government: By these they recommended themselves to the People, the less Discerning Part of whom, took their Noise and Confidence for certain Demonstrations of their Heartiness and Integrity. But as they were Indefinite in their Terms, so were they likewise in their Actions; for they took care only to shew that they were neither Papists, nor true Church of England-
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men, whom, because they found them the most understanding Part of the Nation, they represented as equally dangerous. For the rest, they took care to avoid appearing particular to any one Sect, but in the whole, very well and kindly dispos'd towards them all; and tho' the Principles of many of them were as opposite to each other, as Fire and Water, yet they were equally welcome to them, and care's'd by them at several times, provided still, they would oppose the Church of *England* upon all occasions. All this while, they went themselves to Church, and were as Godly Conformable Men, as they best that came there. Their Exceptions to the Liturgy and Church Service were slight, just enough to confirm their Party, they did not heartily like them, and yet to support the Credit of their mercenary Instruments, the false Church-goers, that they were Lovers of the Church, tho' they were Men of Moderation. It had been much for the Reputation of their Moderation, if they had shewn themselves as cool in the pursuit of Riches, Power, and Honours, as they have done in the Interests of the Church of *England*.

But as the Protestant Religion, and Moderation, are Terms that have been made use of, to seduce numbers of People, and shake their Resolutions for, and Adherence to the Church of *England*; it may be worth while to enquire in a very few Words, what these Terms naturally import, and what has been the Abuse of 'em.

The Word *Protestant* signifies no more than a Protestor, and was first appropriated to Religion after the defection of *Luther* from the See of *Rome*, when the Followers of him, and other Reformers enter'd into a solemn Protestation against divers of the Errors and Corruptions of the Church of *Rome*. The Name then included no more than those who had actually Protested; but came in time to be given indiscriminately to all those who embrac'd the Doctrines of the several Reformers.

Reformers in opposition to the Church of *Rome*. But it has since been extended to all Sorts and Sects of Men that call themselves Christians, how opposite soever to one another in Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship, if they did not Communicate with the Church of *Rome*.

The chief, and perhaps the only, distinguishing Marks upon which they assume the Denomination of Protestants are, *Denying of Transubstantiation, and rejecting the Supremacy of the Pope*. These give us only a negative Idea of the Word *Protestant*; nor has it any positive one, but that the Persons that lay claim to this Name, do protest against these two Things: So that the *Jews, Mahometans, Pagans*, Men of any, or no Religion, have a Title to the Name in the full extent of it, *Papists* alone excepted. For tho' the first Beginners of that Name were undoubtedly Christians, yet the Name it self, implies no Consent to any one Fundamental of the Christian Faith: And we have liv'd to see great Bodies of Men lay claim to it, who wou'd be hard put to't to prove their Title to Christianity. It is therefore a dangerous, and may be a fatal Error, equally to recommend and incourage all those that lay claim to the Name, as if they were equally Orthodox. The natural Consequence of such a Mistake is the propagation of Heresies and Schism, which has too much disturb'd the Christian Church, and sometimes shaken and overturn'd the Civil Government of this Nation. It therefore highly behoves all those who think themselves at present upon a Christian Bottom here, not to trust the Power of Representation to such Persons as are any way to be suspected of Dis-affecti-on to our present Establishment, whether in Church or State, as they will answer to their own Consciences for any Misfortunes, that may befall either upon their contrary Conduct.

Moderation, which is the other Term, of which many People seem not to have a right Notion, deserves likewise to

be consider'd. The Word imports no more, than not to be Violent or Unreasonable in the Pursuit of any thing whatsoever. As it is apply'd to Religion, it means only, that we should have a Christian Charity for our Brethren that dissent from us, (how much soever we think 'em mistaken), and not to Prosecute with Rigour and Severities simple Errors of Judgment, whatever is the natural Result of 'em, unless they tend to the Disturbance of our Peace and Security. Force is an Argument that never alters Mens Opinions, whatever it may do by their outward Profession; and those that are Profelyted that way, thro' Fear are made Hypocrites, not Converts: For this reason it is, that Liberty in point of Faith and Worship ought to be allow'd: But they are mistaken that think Moderation requires any more. True Christian Zeal allows no more than Compassion for Erroneous Consciences, and Indulgence in matters purely Spiritual, such as relate only to the Worship of God after their own Way. They that demand more, under pretence of Moderation, are either ignorant of the extent of the Word, or indifferent to the Profession which they outwardly make, or which is worse, betray some evil Designs which they cover with that Pretence. For it is absurd to pretend a true Love and Zeal for any Faith, Discipline, or Worship, while we knowingly labour to put those into Power, who wish the destruction of 'em, or such as particularly Favour those that do.

The History of the last Threescore Years here in *England*, sufficiently inform us how little we are to trust to the Mercy of any of our Protestant Dissenters, of whatsoever Denomination, whenever in Power, and how little Candour or Justice we are to expect whenever they have but a Dawning of Hope to arrive at it. Those therefore, who have any true Love or Value for their Church, or Civil Constitution, ought to be very cautious that they be not betray'd by a false No-

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tion of Moderation, into such a Neglect, as may in time prove fatal to both.

The Moderation which some Men have recommended, has heretofore in plain *English* been call'd *Trimming*, by which is meant, Professing for one Side, and Acting for t'other. This has been an Art in much Esteem and Reputation of late Days, and has kindled such Flames, and Animosities among us, as are not without great Care to be quietly extinguish'd. And therefore it is hop'd the People will be so careful in all future Choices, to Elect such Persons as lie under no suspicion, and will afford no precedents, nor give any authority to Ministers that may hereafter come to the Helm, by their Example, to play us a double Game, or put us into such a doubtful Condition as we have in former times experienc'd.

By the Government they acted as they did by the Church, and while they bellow'd for the Government, labour'd hard to overthrow our Constitution. In this case also they kept themselves to Indefinite terms; they were (as they said) for the Government, and others, (if you will believe them) against it; yet they never thought fit to explain what they meant by the Government. The Government of *England* should be in the King, (when we had one) Lords, and Commons, and is now, God be thanked, in the Queen, Lords, and Commons; but this is not the sort of Government which they meant. For by themselves or the Party they had espoused, they had at several times endeavoured to baffle and render insignificant every individual Branch of the Sovereignty of *England*: First, the King was a Chip in Porridge, and Prerogative was a Trifle and a piece of Usurpation; next, the House of Lords was a presuming, arrogant, unnecessary Body; and lastly, the House of Commons, (their Idol, while some of them had the leading of it) was an unreasonable, assuming, encroaching, tyrannical Assembly, that had no Sense or Honour, and neither were, or ought to be entrusted.

entrusted with any Powers. Its easie to guess where these Men would have lodged the Government, when they could not be content with any one, or all the three Estates. Any one of them, that would have acted by them, would have been accepted and recommended by them; and this was their meaning, when they represented many of our best Patriots as disaffected to the Government, by which, among themselves, they meant no more, than no Friends to their Ministry. But as they had upon their own Score very little Credit with the People, they found it necessary to embark the King on the same Bottom with themselves; and to perswade him, and by him a great many of the People, that his and their Interest stood and fell with them, and both that the Nation was ruin'd whenever they were out of Credit and Employment.

It pleased Providence however, to render them so secure of the success of their Projects as to lavish and insult at such a rate, as to open the Mouths of many who saw before how things went, whatever the hazard of it was to themselves, and thereby to open the Eyes of many who had for some time been lull'd into a false Security. They saw them resolve the Government purely into themselves, and the King, and endeavour to baffle the Authority of the two other Estates: And they saw as plainly why they allow'd the King a share; and that it was, because that under the shelter of him they could act what exorbitant Irregularities they pleas'd, and come off with a Pretence of extraordinary Affection for the Government, and Zeal for the Protestant Religion, the first of which they knowingly labour'd to subvert, the latter thro' Indifference and Imprudence.

Their main Cunning was shewn in this, that keeping themselves to their Indefinite terms of the Protestant Religion, and the Government, they left every Man to understand them in his own Sense, and consequently to believe them of his Party: This, and the lavishing of Money very freely, en-

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gag'd to them a numerous Party, who, in opposition to the established Church, being fond of their Patronage, and bold upon the Countenance and Favour of the Court, pushed hard for themselves, in opposition to the Interest of the Nation.

They that would know who these were, may enquire, Who opposed the Triennial Bill? Who promoted a Standing Army in the time of Peace? Who obstructed the taking of the publick Accounts? Who were against enquiring into the Mis-application and Imbezelment of forfeited Estates, and publick Money? Who made and signed Treaties to the dishonour of *England*, and to the Injury of her Allies? Who were the Abettors of the Affronts that were put upon the late House of Commons, and the Injuries that were offer'd to the Rights of all the Commons of *England*? Who they were that lately delivered up the Right of Impeachment, the great Bulwark of the common Liberties of *England*? Who made great Estates for no Service to the Nation, out of small Places? And who pretended a great Love to the Government, while they were destroying the antient Government of *England*?

Let them consider who did this, and what they got by it; how much they had to get, and did get, and how little they could lose or do; how much they have pretended to, and how little they have done; and what Proofs they can make for themselves, of what they value themselves upon, if they would but speak plainly and honestly; and let them demand what they please of the Nation, when these Proofs are made out; but till these things are made appear, and they answer what is objected against them, it behoves them to be silent, or at least very modest, lest they imprudently pull upon themselves those particular Proofs, which if they be wise they would avoid.

And

And since the Queen has declared War against *France*, in Confidence of the hearty Assistance of those very Men, whom the late Ministry have so much mis-represented ; and they have answered her with so much Alacrity, and with true Zeal manifested their hearty Affections to her, and the old *English* Constitution, 'tis to be hop'd, that no body can have the Impudence now to attempt to disturb the good Understanding between her, and her People, or offer at those Misrepresentations which have been heretofore so much in practice.

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A LIST of divers Worthy Good Patriots, who were slander'd last Year in a scandalous Paper, call'd The BLACK-LIST.

Of whom the Reader is desir'd to take this Notice,

THAT they are most of 'em Gentlemen of the best Account for Estates, Quality, and Principles among the Commons of the whole Nation.

That they are true Sons of the Church of *England*, as by Law Establish'd.

That they have been strenuous Asserters of the Liberties and Rights of the People.

That they were Promoters of the Triennial Bill, a great Security against the Corruption of Parliaments.

That they promoted to their utmost, a just Account to the Nation of the great Charges they have of late Years been at.

That they were for the enquiring into the Mis-application and Imbezilment of forfeited Estates, and publick Money.

That they were for calling to Account the Authors of Treaties, to the dishonour of *England*, and its *Allies*.

That they were the Asserters of the Honour and Rights of the House of Commons, and of all the Commons of *Eng-land*

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That they were the Asserters of the Honour and Rights of the House of Commons, and of all the Commons of *Eng-land*

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land, in opposition to the insolent Affronts and Injuries that were lately offer'd to both.

That they were the Persons who by their Courage, and Prudence, preserv'd us from the Danger of a Standing-Army in time of Peace.

That they were the Men who gave up those grievous Privileges which gave 'em means of Exemption from paying their just Debts.

That they were the Persons who voted Supplies to the *Dutch*, above a Year before they were oblig'd to it by the Articles Stipulated between *England* and the *States*.

That they were the Persons who promoted the Act of Limitation for the Security of a Protestant Succession, and of our Church and Civil Constitution.

That they defended the Right of the Commons of *England* in the Point of Impeachments.

That they have provided for the Deficiencies of the publick Funds, and the Payment of the publick Debts, and the Preservation of Parliamentary Credit.

That they have shew'd an extraordinary and singular Zeal, and Affection, for her Majesties Person, Interest, and Government.

All which, (it is hop'd) are Recommendations to their Country-men, whenever they shall have occasion for their further Service.

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and twenty three Honest Gen-
tlemen, who signaliz'd themselves
in the Defence of the Rights of
the Commons of England in the
Point of *Impeachments.*

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Y O R K S H I R E.

Robert Byerly, Esq;

Anthony Duncomb, Esq;

Sir Bryan Stapylton, Bar.

Sir Godfrey Copley, Bar.

Cyril Arthington, Esq;

Sir John Bland, Bar.

C I N Q U E P O R T S.

John Brewer, Esq;

Edward Goulston, Esq;

John Hays, Esq;

W A L E S.

Rt. Hon. Richard L. Viscount Bulkeley.

Robert Bulkeley, Esq;

Sir Jeffery Jefferies, Knt.

Lewis Pryse, Esq;

Henry Lloyd, Esq;

Hon. Tho. Bulkeley, Esq;

Sir John Wynne, Knt. and Bar.

Sir Richard Middleton, Bar.

Edward Brereton, Esq;

Sir Roger Mostyn, Bar.

Sir John Conway, Bar.

Thomas Mansell, of Margam, Esq;

Thomas Mansel of Britton Ferry, Esq;

Edward Vaughan, Esq;

John Vaughan, Esq;

The Hon. Robert Harley, Esq; Speaker.

Divers other Worthy Members concurring with these, had been comprehended in this LIST, had not their necessary Affairs detain'd 'em from being present at the Occasion of it.

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Esq;

aker.

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